United Nations A/53/370/Add.4

General Assembly

Distr.: General
22 January 1999

Original: English

Fifty-third session
Agenda item 31
Culture of peace

Consolidated report containing a draft declaration and programme of action on a culture of peace

Note by the Secretary-General

Addendum

The attached information includes a summary of the debate held at the one hundred fifty-fifth session of the Executive Board of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. It is submitted to the General Assembly at the request of the Executive Board.

99-01644 (E) 250199

Annex

Debate of the Programme and External Relations Commissions during the one hundred fifty-fifth session of the Executive Board of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on the consolidated report to the United Nations on a Culture of Peace[a]

During the debate on this matter which took place on 30 October 1998, a number of recommendations were made for inclusion in the draft programme of action, in particular:

(a) Actions to promote respect for the rights of the child;

(b) Actions to promote constructive pluralism and the search for common ethical values in different civilizations and spiritualities celebrating human brotherhood and unity;

(c) Promotion of non-violence;

(d) Measures to deal with poverty, deprivation and marginalization;

(e) Measures to reduce interpersonal, inter-group and international inequalities, disparities and asymmetries in the world of finance, trade and security;

(f) Reference to the Houphouet-Boigny Peace Prize and its winners.

With regard to the draft declaration on a culture of peace, specific recommendations were made for additions to the declaration, including:

(a) Reference to the origins of the culture of peace concept at the International Conference on Peace in the Minds of Men, held in Yamoussoukro in 1989;

(b) More emphasis on the means necessary to realize the goals and objectives;

(c) More emphasis on the convergence of initiatives by the United Nations and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization;

(d) Consideration of the "Review and appraisal" part.

Finally, it was emphasized that while the transition to a culture of peace should be initiated immediately, and in particular in preparation for and during the year 2000, the International Year for the Culture of Peace-Building the Culture of Peace is a process that requires above all the commitment of the Member States and the whole United Nations system.

Following its discussions, the Executive Board invited the Director General to transmit to the Secretary-General of the United Nations the summary of its debate.

Notes

[a] Document 155 EX/49 and Corr.